

## SENATE—Tuesday, June 22, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

*The hour is coming, and now is, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*—John 4:23.

Gracious Lord of our lives, we respond to this invitation to worship You. In the quiet of this moment, we worship You in the splendor of Your majesty. You are infinite, eternal, and unchangeable; in Your being, You are wisdom, holiness, goodness, and truth. We worship You in response to Your grace: Your unqualified love for each of us. Thank You for Your faithfulness. You never give up on us. Even though we falter and fail, You neither leave nor forsake us. Your providential care for our Nation has been consistent all through our history. As a people we return to You.

Now Lord, how shall we worship You in the midst of the work of this day? We want to live magnificently by magnifying You in the mundane as well as the momentous. We want our work itself to be our response of worship. Our desire is to glorify You in all we think, decide, and do. Everything within us stands on tiptoe to worship You, for You are our God in whom we place our trust. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Today the Senate will resume consideration of the State Department authorization bill under a previous order. A cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 975, the steel import limitation bill, will take place at 12:15, with 40 minutes of debate on the motion prior to the vote.

Following that vote, the Senate will stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. so the weekly party caucuses can meet. It is our intention to complete action on the State Department reauthorization bill during today's session of the Senate and to resume consideration of the agriculture appropriations bill.

I thought we had reached an agreement as to exactly how to complete the State Department authorization bill

late yesterday afternoon, but because of the absence of some Senators who needed to be consulted, we were not able to lock in the procedure and the time for completing that action. I hope we can complete it this morning and have a vote or votes on or in relation to the State Department authorization bill after the party caucuses at 2:15. When we go back to the agriculture appropriations bill, we would expect a number of votes this afternoon.

Unfortunately, the Democratic leadership has chosen to confuse the issue and delay action on the agriculture appropriations bill by offering the Patients' Bill of Rights to this very important bill. We could work out an agreement otherwise, if they would be reasonable as to how we might consider that issue. But for now it is pending to the agriculture appropriations bill, and I would expect there would be a couple of votes on or in relation to that issue also.

### MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 1256

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 1256) entitled the "Patients' Bill of Rights."

Mr. LOTT. I object to further proceedings on this bill at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill goes to the calendar.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

### FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2000 AND 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 886, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 886) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2000 and 2001; to provide for enhanced security at United States diplomatic facilities; to provide for certain arms control, non-proliferation, and other national security measures; to provide for reform of the United Nations; and for other purposes.

Pending:

Feingold amendment No. 692, to limit the percentage of noncompetitively awarded grants made to the core grantees of the National Endowment for Democracy.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to address the Senate as if in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MACK. I thank the Chair.

### STEEL QUOTA

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, proponents of the quota legislation to be considered later today have spoken with vigor and passion regarding the "injury" that was suffered by domestic steel companies and the threat imports pose to the workers at those companies.

However, I am compelled to rise today to respond to many of the assertions raised regarding the steel industry specifically, and more generally I think it is important to speak to several other factors related to the bill. First, there are economic benefits all Americans enjoy as a result of lowering trade barriers; second, the harmful message a quota bill would send to our trading partners; and, third, the inappropriateness of Congress singling out a specific industry for special treatment.

The first point I would like to make is that the import surge is over. According to the Department of Commerce, imports have returned to their traditional levels. In fact, overall steel imports in the first 4 months of 1999 were below the "pre-import" surge level. Moreover, even with the import surge of 1998, U.S. steel producers reported profits of over \$1 billion.

Furthermore, in reviewing data provided by the Steel Manufacturers Association, I was surprised to find that U.S. steel production has increased over the last 10 years. The 1998 steel output of 107.6 million tons was 10 percent greater than 1990 and the highest for any year since 1981.

Additionally, I was interested to discover that since 1987, imports as a percentage of domestic consumption have remained constant at around 20 percent. Again, according to this data, no ground has been lost despite protestations to the contrary.

Some have argued that the financial ill health of several specific companies such as Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Weirton Steel Corporation, Laclede Steel Company, Acme Metals Incorporated, and Geneva Steel Company are the direct result of last year's import surge. However, the fact is that many of the integrated steel mills have a history of declining financial health